

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
February 7, 2018

America's Game, America's Drink

This year's Super Bowl had it all: Heart-grabbing moments. Charismatic personalities. A larger than life sense of proportion. Oh, and there was a [football game](#). In case you missed it (which nearly 8 million folks did compared to 2017) the telecast featured two real highpoints—namely, Budweiser and Stella Artois (with help from actor [Matt Damon](#)) touting not beer but water. Yup, that's right, water—or “raw beer” as the hip kids call it. Not only were the ads about water but about water that can be given away for [free](#). In the Stella Artois case it's not exactly free, they promise to provide [one month of clean water to somebody \(we are not clear on how that is figured\) for every pint](#) of their beer you buy. Maybe this is just an anomaly and maybe it is crass commercialism in sheep's clothing, [but in a crazy world where three little people's troubles don't amount to a hill of beans](#) maybe there is reason to hope that important things in fact get talked about and acted on. And you don't really even have to buy a beer to do it.

P.S. Congratulations Eagles, nicely done.

Infrastructure Déjà vu

We don't know about you, but here at Chateau de Eau we were all 15 once and looking forward to being 16, getting our driver's licenses, and our freedom—and of course a car. Not just any car but a [cool car](#). We had it all figured out, especially the part about how great it would be for our parents to have mobile cool kids. Then it didn't happen. Not because it wasn't a great plan, but because our parents somehow didn't live up to their end of the plan by going further into debt to finance our rides. Can you believe it? Well lots of [state and local governments are feeling that way again](#) after the President's State of the Union Address where he called for a \$1 trillion (\$1.5 in some reports—with a “t”) infrastructure effort that would lead to infrastructure “gleaming across our truly, truly beautiful land”. As the dust settles on that proposal and it lines up with budgetary proposals, things look a lot murkier. That's because a lot of that price tag is going to get picked up by state and local governments and maybe the private sector. So far, it looks like traditional Federal/State cost sharing ration (it varies, but is almost always at least 65/35%) could be flipped to 20/80%, prompting some to wonder just how this turns into improved infrastructure. Many state and local governments are constrained by small tax bases, a prohibition against deficit spending, and years of electing officials who promise to never, ever, ever raise or even extend a tax. There are also many types of infrastructure that just don't seem all that attractive to the private sector. The White House [is promising more details next week](#) so maybe the answers

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

March 1-2, 2018

[Coastal Law in Louisiana](#)

New Orleans, LA

March 9-10, 2018

[23rd Annual Environmental Law and Policy Summit](#)

Tulane Law School

New Orleans

Water jobs:

[Staff Attorney or Policy Analyst - Water](#)

National Resource Defense Council
Chicago IL

[Environmental Policy Fellow](#)

Duke University
Durham, NC

[Water Rights Specialist](#)

State of Washington
Ellensburg, WA

[Program Officer](#)

Walton Family Foundation
Washington, DC

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await, but even if they come they may not be the ones that lead to improved infrastructure. That sweet ride may be a long wait.

23rd Annual Environmental Law and Policy Summit—Tulane Law School

For 22 years the students in Tulane's Environmental and Energy Law Society have pulled off a miracle of a conference that welcomes all, covers nearly every topic you can imagine, and leaves those come feeling better and more informed. The magic happens again on March 9 and 10 at Tulane Law School as our students roll out the [23rd Annual Environmental Law and Policy Summit](#). If Mardi Gras is the greatest free show on Earth, this Summit has to come in second. If you have been before, come again. If you haven't, make plans to come for the first time. Regardless, you won't be disappointed. (Speaking of Mardi Gras, TUWaterWays will be taking next week off. Have fun and stay safe!)

Coastal Law: Nothing Says You Care Quite Like It

Still looking for that special gift that says I love you? You have done roses, candy, jewelry, fancy pens (don't do that again) so what is left? Two words: Coastal law. That's right, everybody wants to learn or bone up on the fundamentals of Louisiana coastal law, even if it has not yet occurred to them. So treat yourself and a loved one to a seat at the [Coastal Law in Louisiana](#) on March 1 and 2 in New Orleans. Sponsored by The Seminar Group and the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy this program will be useful for lawyers, planners, engineers, (continuing education credits available) and many others.